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## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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## PETITION TO ACCEPT AN UNINTENTIONALLY DELAYED CLAIM OF PRIORITY OF U.S. PATENT APPLICATION NO. 09/776,865 PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. § 1.78(a)(3)

Mailstop Petition Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Applicant respectfully petitions for the acceptance of an amended claim of priority of the above-mentioned U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/776,865, filed February 2, 2001. The claim of priority should read as follows: Application Serial No. 09/776,865, filed February 2, 2001, is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/823,506, which is a divisional application of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/359,167, filed July 21, 1999, now issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,803,448, which claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 60/093,843 filed July 22, 1998.

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted to the United States Patent Office Centralized Facsimile Number (571-273-8300) on February 6, 2006.

Flena S. Polovnikova, Ph.D.-Reg. No. 52,130